

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 72

Introduced by Assembly Member Ashburn

June 29, 1999

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 72, as introduced, Ashburn. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim August 1999 as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis), a
2 progressive, multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a
3 debilitating disease; and

4 WHEREAS, It is caused by the inhalation of tiny
5 airborne fungi that live in soil, but are released into the
6 air by soil disturbance or wind; and

7 WHEREAS, Valley Fever attacks the respiratory
8 system causing infection which can lead to symptoms that
9 resemble a cold, flu, or pneumonia-like symptoms; and

10 WHEREAS, Left untreated or mistreated, infection
11 can spread from the lungs into the bloodstream causing
12 inflammation to the skin, permanent damage to lung and
13 bone tissue, and swelling of the membrane surrounding
14 the brain leading to meningitis, which can be devastating
15 and even fatal; and

1 WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of Valley Fever
2 appear, including pneumonia and labored breathing,
3 treatment must be prompt with antifungal drugs that are
4 disagreeable and often toxic, especially for patients who
5 have it injected beneath the base of their skull for
6 meningitis, causing side effects such as nausea, fever, and
7 kidney damage; and

8 WHEREAS, Within California alone, Valley Fever is
9 found in portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San
10 Joaquin Valley, desert regions, and portions of southern
11 California; and

12 WHEREAS, Valley Fever affects the young, the
13 elderly, and those with lowered immune systems, which
14 number in the tens of thousands; and

15 WHEREAS, Valley Fever has been a disease studied for
16 the past 100 years, but still remains impossible to control
17 and difficult to treat; and

18 WHEREAS, There is no known cure to date for Valley
19 Fever; however, researchers are closer than they ever
20 have been in finding a much needed vaccine to this
21 devastating disease; and

22 WHEREAS, Recognizing the research effort to find a
23 vaccine and the funding partnership, including funding
24 from the State of California, which was approved by the
25 Legislature and signed by Governor Wilson in 1997; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
28 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature does
29 hereby proclaim August 1999, as Valley Fever Awareness
30 Month.

